For more than 85 years, United Way of Greater Portland’s mission has been to improve people’s lives by mobilizing the caring power of our community.

Today, we are uniting individuals and organizations around our community’s shared vision, Thrive2027, three 10-year goals to improve education, financial stability, and health for every person in Greater Portland.

With community partners, we build on strategies that are known to achieve the best results, and we rigorously evaluate our progress. And, because we believe everyone has a role to play in building a thriving community, we actively seek to engage donors, advocates, and volunteers to create measurable, long-lasting community change.

Thank you for partnering with us.

COLLABORATIVE COMMUNITY ACTION

Forging Partnerships for a Healthier Community
In 2017 after a community needs assessment, Maine Medical Center and Preble Street teamed up to launch The Learning Collaborative, a creative solution to support those experiencing homelessness. Funded in part by your support of United Way of Greater Portland, The Learning Collaborative helps individuals access safe care—at the right time—and navigate existing health and social service resources. Individuals experiencing homelessness improve their self-sufficiency, and as a community, the program reinforces collaboration, communication, and care-coordination across community agencies, social service and health care providers.

The collaboration not only wraps support around our community’s most vulnerable members with this innovative program, it is educating Greater Portland’s future clinical workforce.

A Two-generation Approach by a United Force
Funded by United Way’s Women United, The Opportunity Alliance’s Project WIN (Women in Neighborhoods) is a collaboration that works with a group of single mothers and their children living in Portland’s East Bayside neighborhood. Project WIN engages community partners like SMCC, Portland Adult Education, Head Start, Pine Tree Legal, and East End Community School to help parents pursue employment skills and education goals to improve their own economic security and stability, while simultaneously ensuring their children are on a path at an early age to foster a love of learning. By focusing jointly on the development of both mother and child(ren), Project WIN engages families using a two-generation approach. Women United supports this initiative because they know children and families do better when they both have every opportunity to succeed in school, in work, and as a family. To learn more, visit www.unitedwaygp.org/womenunited.

United, 2,677 volunteers donated 18,292 hours in 2017 to help United Way achieve sustainable community change.
**GOAL 1: Every child has quality early learning experiences beginning at birth.**

By 2027, 70% of children read proficiently at the end of third grade.

*58% of 3rd graders in Cumberland County read proficiently.*

Only 36% of third graders who are eligible for free or reduced lunch read proficiently.

**WHY IT MATTERS**

3rd graders who are not reading at grade level by the end of the school year are 4X more likely NOT to graduate from high school.

12,388 (33%) of school-age children in Cumberland County qualify for free or reduced school lunch, a key indication that children live in low-income families.

18.7% of children are food insecure.

**UNITED WAY IN ACTION**

281 children in high-quality early childhood programs funded by your support are making progress on developmental milestones and are better prepared for kindergarten.

$4 million a year in State funding was secured through successful statewide advocacy with key partners to expand pre-Kindergarten. Research shows access to high-quality early learning increases a child’s likelihood of academic success.

50 elementary school children from Portland’s East Bayside neighborhood strengthened their reading skills while engaging in the arts thanks to funding from the Brick & Beam Society.

76 childcare providers participated in trainings sponsored by Westbrook Children's Project to enhance the quality of their services.

**GOAL 2: People have the education, employment opportunities, and resources to achieve financial stability.**

By 2027, 70% of households pay less than 30% of their income on housing.

*58% of adults, ages 25-64 in Cumberland County, have an associate degree or credential beyond high school. An adult with an associate degree earns 51% more than a high school graduate with no college, earning an estimated $246,396 more in their lifetime.*

78% of low-income students in Cumberland County who begin college do not graduate. Students with some college but no degree represent two-thirds of student loan debt defaults.

21 organizations representing government, non-profits, schools, and economic development organizations are working together to help low-income individuals develop career pathways and increase their earning potential.

26 single moms are supporting their children’s developmental milestones to learn and thrive in school while increasing their family’s long-term financial stability thanks to an investment from Women United.

1,019 low- and moderate-income households in Cumberland County filed their income taxes for free and returned $1,240,483 back into their pockets.

298 people secured employment after receiving job training or support services.

Through an innovative community partnership started in 2017, 55 low-income adults are taking care of their oral health while learning basic financial literacy skills so they can plan and save for ongoing dental health care. Research shows that 33% of low-income adults report poor oral health impacts their ability to secure a job.

**GOAL 3: Individuals and communities have resources and opportunities to achieve optimal health status.**

By 2027, reduce preventable premature deaths by 10%.

*248 more people in Cumberland County died prematurely (before the age of 75) between 2014-2016 than the previous three years, due in part to a 68% increase in drug-overdose death.*

19% of high school students have used marijuana at least one time during the preceding month.

21% of adults in Maine have a diagnosable mental illness. Males are 4X more likely to die from suicide than females.

20% of Cumberland County high school students have experienced three or more Adverse Childhood Experiences (abuse, neglect, and other traumatic experiences).

726 youth and adults who received support and services to address mental health and/or addiction improved their daily functioning.

United Way funding of an innovative collaborative pilot enabled 28 individuals who are currently homeless and fighting addiction to receive specialized medical care services putting them on a path to health and self-sufficiency.

302 professionals, including case managers, domestic advocates, attorneys, law enforcement, educators, medical personnel, and members of the business community, have been trained to recognize and respond to Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES).

23,000 Maine children rely on the Children’s Health Insurance Program for access to health care. UNISP used a targeted social media campaign to urge citizens to contact their congressional representatives asking them to support the reauthorization.